

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W

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O R 160704Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6787

USMISSION SSUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 306

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA - MORE REPORTS ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS

1. ACCORDING TO AN "ARGUS" AFRICAN NEWS SERVICE REPORT FROM SALISBURY, FEB 16 AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT ON WHITE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT, "IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL FOUR PARTIES HAVE AGREED THAT THE 28 WHITE MP'S ELECTED UNDER THIS METHOD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FORM A COALITION WITH ANOTHER MINORITY IN ORDER FOR FORM A GOVT." DURING A MEETING WITH THE CAPE TOWN FIVE THIS AFTERNOON, ON THE SUBJECT OF NAMIBIA, SAG SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRAND FOURIE, DESCRIBED THIS UNDERSTANDING AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE COMPROMISE REACHED IN SALISBURY ON THE WHITE REPRESENTATION ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SAME ARGUS REPORT, A RHODESIAN
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GOVT STATEMENT ISSUED LAST NIGHT, FEB 15, SAID THE CONF WOULD NOT PROCEED TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. THE REPORT SAID THESE MATTERS WOULD INCLUDE THE COMPOSITION OF THE FUTURE SECURITY FORCES, THE REVIEW OF SENTENCES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

3. COMMENT: THE UNDERSTANDING REPORTED IN PARA 1, IF ACCURATE, MAKES YESTERDAY'S "COMPROMISE" ON THE ISSUE OF WHITE REPRESENTATION LESS SUPERFICIAL THAN IT APPEARS. STILL, ALTHOUGH THE 28 WHITE MEMBERS WOULD, UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT BE PREVENTED FROM FORMING A GOVT COALITION WITH A MINORITY OF BLACK MP'S, THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY RETAIN THE POTENTIAL TO FORM A MAJORITY VOITING BLOC WITH CONSERVATIVE BLACKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-0026
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaaboxl.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3577101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA - MORE REPORTS ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS
TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, RH
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef34dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014